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TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

Mr. President and Members of the Society:

During the year 1917 the Columbia Historical Society has held seven meetings in the Gold Room of The Shoreham, on the third Tuesday of the months of January to May inclusive, and in November and December, with an average attendance of about one hundred and fifteen members and guests. There have been six deaths and several resignations, which have been offset by a sufficient number of new members to bring the membership to 216, being an increase of two over last year's membership. These are classified as follows: four life members, one honorary member, one complimentary member, and two hundred and ten annual members.

The Society sustained a severe loss in the death of Mrs. Mary Stevens Beall, its Recording Secretary for twenty-one years, who established an enviable record for fidelity and efficiency in her work for the Society, and whose memory will always be cherished by those associated with her in her long tenure of office, as well as by all who knew her.

The Board of Managers held eight meetings during the past year, with an average attendance of eight members, and transacted much business of benefit and interest to the Society.

Volume 20 of THE RECORDS made its appearance in the early summer of 1917 and is of a high order in the quality of its material, containing papers of great value, notably, Mr. Noyes' paper on "The Presidents and the National Capital," and the biographical sketches of Mayors Emery and Lenox, and of Benjamin Stoddert, first Secretary of the U. S. Navy.

During the past year an unusual number of papers were read before the Society, most of which were fine examples of the subjects most desirable for publication in our records, and the forthcoming volume promises to be particularly interesting as well as a valuable addition to Washingtoniana.

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Many war publications have been received from abroad, and many books and pamphlets from the various state Historical Societies and Libraries, so that our Library has entirely outgrown its present quarters, and it is becoming a problem to know what to do with them.

Respectfully submitted,

MAUD BURR MORRIS,
Recording Secretary.

January 15, 1918.